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LETTER DATED 13 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992) and paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 780 (1992), I have the honour to submit to you information relating to violations of humanitarian law and human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if the present letter and the information provided in the annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter HOHENFELLNER
Ambassador

Annex

Republic of Austria
Federal Ministry of the Interior

Report
on the Results of Interviews with War Refugees Staying in Austria on Violations of Humanitarian International Law and of Human Rights in Former Yugoslavia

Vienna, February 1993

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I. The situation

On 6 October 1992, the UN Security Council, noting reports on mass executions and ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia, asked the Secretary-General of the United Nations to set up an impartial Commission of Experts to examine and analyse such reports. At the same time, the Security Council asked States, the appropriate agencies of the United Nations and other organisations to make information on violations of humanitarian international law in former Yugoslavia available to the Commission. When adopting this Resolution, the Security Council had before it Resolution No. 771, which only called for the collection of such information, the report of the Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, on the human rights situation in former Yugoslavia, and an article published in "New York Newsday" on 23 August 1992 entitled "Rape by Command: Serbian Terror Against Bosnian Women".

II. Collection of data concerning crimes against humanity in former Yugoslavia

Under the Resolution mentioned above, the Federal Ministry of the Interior has conducted interviews with those persons having fled to Austria who were either themselves victims of physical or psychological brutality or, as eyewitnesses, are able to testify to violations of human rights in the areas occupied by Serbs.

The immediate occasion for conducting the interviews was the acceptance by Austria of 171 prisoners of war who had been moved from TRNOPOLJE camp to Croatia through the intercession of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

III. Interviews

3.1. General

At the request of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Commissioners for Refugees of the Austrian Federal States supplied the names of those persons in their care who were prepared to furnish the interviewers with relevant information. The prisoners of war who were in Federal care were questioned at the Traiskirchen Refugee Centre. A total of 17 persons were interviewed: 3 in Vienna, 7 at Traiskirchen and 7 in Carinthia. Most of those interviewed come from the north-eastern parts of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The following data were obtained: precise personal data; time and place of the violation of human rights; description of the violation; and the names of the persons who committed these crimes against humanity. On the basis of the facts of each incident, the cases were assigned to five categories, although it was not possible to draw clear-cut lines because of the multiple and partly overlapping elements of these crimes against humanity:

1) Mass executions (4 witnesses);
2) Torture and ill-treatment (6 victims);
3) Rape (3 victims);

4) Arbitrary shootings and massacres (2 witnesses);
5) Ethnic cleansing (1 victim, 1 witness).

In view of the requirements of Austrian data protection legislation, this report was written in two parts. Its first part contains a description of the situation based on the author's interviews with war refugees living in Austria. The second part of the report contains the personal data of those who testified and information on the persons named by them who are under suspicion of having committed war crimes.

With the code numbers assigned in the first part of the report, the informant's identity can be established if necessary.

3.2.1. Mass executions

3.2.1.1. KEROTERM camp

Code No. ALK1

The camp is 10 kilometres from HAMBARINE and consists of four halls. This witness was detained from 20 July to 5 August 1992 at the camp, which housed about 1,700 persons at the time. The witness was arrested by Serb soldiers on 20 July together with other inhabitants of his village, and was taken to the camp. He was accommodated in Hall 3 with about 350 - 400 men (10 by 10 metres).

The witness states:

Towards the evening of 24 July 1992, the windows and doors of the hall were closed. The prisoners were given containers with drinking water. Apparently the water was poisoned because those prisoners who drank water fainted, which is why unrest unrose in the hall. The prisoners started to shout and loudly expressed their anger. Shortly thereafter (at about 10.00 p.m.) the doors were opened and about 15 soldiers entered the hall. /...

They hit with their rifle butts at the prisoners sitting or standing in the immediate vicinity of the door. A short time later, the soldiers started to shoot at the prisoners at random. The witness threw himself to the ground and pretended to be dead. The shooting lasted for about 15 minutes. Then the soldiers closed the door again, leaving the injured and dead in the hall. On the next morning, the dead were loaded on to several lorries and the injured were taken to the courtyard. At first it was said that a doctor would treat the injured. After two hours, the injured were also loaded on to lorries by some prisoners.

On 26 July 1992 at about 6 a.m., 5 or 6 soldiers came into the hall and selected about 50 prisoners. The soldiers ordered them to stand directly in front of the hall and then shot at the prisoners. Those who were not dead at once were executed by single shots. Then 10 prisoners were brought from the hall who were ordered to load the dead bodies on a lorry. These prisoners were also taken away in that lorry. The witness does not know anything about the fate of these prisoners. He assumes that these persons were also shot to prevent them from giving away the place where the dead bodies were buried. On the same day, the prisoners were ordered to clean the halls spattered with blood. The courtyard was cleaned with water hoses. The reason was said to be that a commission or delegation was coming to inspect the camp. Reportedly the camp was really inspected on 5 August 1992, which is why the prisoners were transferred to TRNOPOLJE camp beforehand. The witness remained in the latter camp until 1 October 1992 and was then with other prisoners transferred to KARLOVAC (50 km from ZAGREB).

The witness was told that according to the testimony of other persons the events described had taken place on 20 July and 23 July 1992, respectively. The witness insisted that the poisoning of the water had taken place on 24 July and the mass execution in front of the hall on 26 July 1992. He gave the names of persons who took part in the shooting on 26 July 1992.

The witness says that in the camp at TRNOPOLJE only his watch was taken from him. He states that some prisoners were beaten and ill-treated in that camp. In that camp, relatives were allowed to visit the prisoners.

Code No. ALK2

This witness was at the above-mentioned prison camp from 9 July to 9 August 1992. Reportedly it is a fairly new ceramics factory which closed due to the fighting. The witness was detained in Hall 3 until 22 July 1992 and then in Hall 2, where there were about 520 prisoners. The witness made precise statements about the numerous cases of ill-treatment and prisoners being shot dead, which agree with the statements of the first witness according to whom the mass executions in Hall 3 took place after witness ALK2 was transferred to Hall 2.

3.2.1.2. BROD/FOCA

Code No. ABF1

This witness saw towards the end of June (between 20 and 30 June 1992) civilians (men) from the surrounding villages being taken to a bridge by soldiers and being thrown into the river DRINA after having been shot dead.

The witness himself lived in the town of BROD (4 km from the town of FOCA). On 8 April 1992, the Serbs attacked FOCA. Thereupon the witness hid in a house at ZUBOVICE. After three days, he went to a Serbian friend who hid him in his house located about 100 metres from a bridge across the river DRINA (20 m). From the attic of the house he was able to see everything that happened on the bridge.

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In the late afternoon of the first day, about 20 - 30 persons were walked from BROD to the bridge. The hands of the prisoners were tied to their backs. They were accompanied by about 30 - 50 soldiers. The prisoners stood on the bridge for about an hour. During that time, they were insulted and beaten with rifle butts by the soldiers. Then the soldiers started to shoot at the prisoners with their automatic weapons. Afterwards the dead bodies were thrown into the river from the bridge.

Reportedly these dead bodies were pulled out of the river at GORAZDE, which was controlled by the Moslems, and after their identification by residents of Brod who had fled to GORAZDE they were buried. This report was broadcast by Radio-SARAJEVO.

Before dusk on the second day, about 50 - 70 prisoners from TRNOVACE (2 km from BROD) and TRBUSCE (4 - 5 km from BROD) were brought to the bridge in a lorry. Among them were some members of the BECKOVIC family whom the witness knew personally. Three to five prisoners were bound to each other with their hands on their backs. At nightfall, the prisoners were shot by about 50 - 60 soldiers wearing different uniforms of the Yugoslav Federal Army and of the chetniks. Then the dead bodies were thrown into the river. Since next to the bridge there were the remains of an old bridge from the Second World War, some of the dead bodies which were bound to each other were caught in these remains. On the following day, these corpses were mangled by hand grenades so that the water could float them away in the end.

Around midnight of the third day, again prisoners were brought to the bridge in lorries from MILJEVINA (11 km from BROD); because of the darkness, the witness cannot make any statements about their number. Shortly after their arrival, the prisoners were shot and their dead bodies were thrown into the river. Because of the frequency with which the impact of the corpses on the surface of the water could be heard, the witness assumes that there must have been many corpses. On the following day,

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tank trucks drove up to the bridge; the bloodstains were washed off. This process was repeated on several days because the bloodstains could not be washed off at once. The witness thinks that one could still find traces of blood on that bridge today.

The witness remained in his Serbian friend's house until 2 July 1992; with his friend's help, he was able to get an exit permit with which he was able to flee via NOVIPAZAR to SKOPJE. After a two-month stay in Macedonia, the witness came to Austria on 9 September 1992.

The witness names persons from his village who were present at the executions.

3.2.1.3. GREAT ZVORNIK

Code No. ABGZ1

The witness comes from this area. In his first interview with the US diplomat, he stated that massacres of children and mass executions of Moslem patients had taken place at the local hospital.

On Monday, 22 June 1992, the witness saw from a house located in SMALL ZVORNIK (Serbia) that Serb soldiers in GREAT ZVORNIK (Bosnia) were preventing civilians from crossing the river DRINA. He saw bulldozers digging out earth. Reportedly corpses from FOCA were to be buried there. These graves were dug in the place where previously the Moslem and Jewish cemeteries had been located.

On 8 April 1992, Serb soldiers occupied the hospital where the witness was working as an X-ray assistant. Soon after the occupation, the witness was sent home. But after the soldiers could not find suitable personnel for the X-ray department, he was called back to work. The witness's statements as to when /...

the massacre of children took place are contradictory, he says it was on a Wednesday or Thursday at 10.00 a.m.(21 May 1992?). The witness was in the children's ward on the second floor of the hospital where about 17 children aged from one to 12 years were accommodated. The soldiers went into the rooms and maltreated the children brutally. They broke their arms and legs and flung small children through the corridors. He is sure that many children lost their lives.

A little later, the personnel was ordered to take the Moslem patients from their rooms; they were forced to stand along the outer wall of the building. The personnel had to watch the patients being shot by the soldiers. The witness was standing beside the main entrance of the Diagnostic Department, about 50 metres from the place of execution. As to the number of persons executed, he cannot give precise information. Next to the witness his Serbian subordinate was standing, but he can hardly be named as a witness because, given his nationality, he would not be prepared to testify about the events.

3.2.2. Torture and ill-treatment

3.2.2.1. BATKOVCI camp

Code No. BB1

This witness comes from GREAT ZVORNIK and was himself a victim of physical ill-treatment. He was detained in the camp at BATKOVCI (see the ICRC certificate of 8 December 1992) and he is prepared to repeat his testimony before a public body.

The witness was arrested by chetniks on 14 May 1992 at 5.30 p.m. at BIJELINA (between SMALL ZVORNIK and GREAT ZVORNIK). The witness was handcuffed and taken to a car with a pistol being held to his temple. He was accused of having hidden explosives in his house, which, however, was not true. He was taken to a

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kindergarten in the centre of the town of GREAT ZVORNIK, where he was beaten for hours by a policeman with a truncheon.

Then he was taken to the ALOHOS textile plant at GREAT ZVORNIK, where the crisis staff of the Serbs was in session at the outbreak of the war. The witness was beaten by three soldiers in the night from 16 to 17 May 1992 from 8.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m.in a changing room with toilets. He had to stand at the wall with raised hands. The soldiers beat him with rifle butts and fists in the face, which led to a fracture of the upper jaw (medical report from TUZLA hospital of 13 October 1992). The witness was unable to take solid food for 20 days. He had to wipe off his own blood from the floor.

Because the witness had told a soldier whose brother had worked under him in a mine, that he was afraid to be killed, the soldier remained in the textile plant in order to protect him against ill-treatment. The witness was transferred to a court building on 20 May 1992 at 11.00 a.m.This building consisted of 4 rooms; in each room about 60 persons were being held. The witness was beaten every day by soldiers who did not belong to the guard personnel. The soldiers would enter the room and order the prisoners present to remain standing with their hands on their backs and their heads bent. The persons who were to be beaten were ordered to kneel down with bent heads. These prisoners received kicks against their backs and kidneys. In a room next door, a sixty-year-old man suffering from a kidney complaint reportedly died as a result of such ill-treatment.

On 4 June 1992, the witness was transferred to a neighbouring house with other prisoners, because the court building was said to be required to accommodate 120 prisoners, among them 20 seriously injured people from the culture centre at CELOPEK where, so they heard, about 30 persons were being killed every day. On the ground floor of the neighbouring house, the women prisoners were accommodated. On the first floor, there were two rooms; in the first, 60 persons were held, in the second, 10; /...

there the prisoners were beaten. The torturers wore uniforms of the Mirko JOVIC group (i.e. White Eagle) and of the SESELJ group.

The JOVIC group cut crosses in the foreheads of ten prisoners. The SESELJ group used a different method of torture. They placed a wire around the prisoners' throats and choked them until they lost consciousness. Then they beat them on the head with a truncheon until they regained consciousness. This torture was applied from 4 June to 15 July 1992.

A prisoner named SEJFO (aged about 35) was tortured in the garage of the house. The witness was able to observe from a window opposite the garage how three soldiers beat the prisoner with iron bars until he collapsed dead. The corpse was then taken away in the boot of a Mercedes.

On 15 July 1992 at about 2.00 p.m., the male prisoners from the court building and the neighbouring house (except the seriously injured) were transferred in buses to BATKOVIC camp. Shortly after their arrival, the prisoners were beaten by soldiers with rifle butts, truncheons and fists. In the hall where the witness was held, there were about 1,000 persons. The soldiers rained blows on the prisoners again and again. He himself did not see the soldiers beating the prisoners, but he could see their dead bodies on the next day which were lying on the ground in the courtyard wrapped in a piece of cloth. This kind of beating was mostly administered in the evening. At that time, prisoners with their hands on the back of their necks and their heads bent had to be present when the soldiers ill-treated other prisoners picked from the crowd at random.

He says that on one evening at about 6 p.m. four new prisoners were brought into the camp. In the courtyard, they were beaten by four soldiers. Two prisoners reached the hall with their last ounce of strength, the two others remained lying on the ground, so they were carried into the hall by the soldiers. /...

Blood was flowing from the ears of one of the two prisoners, because of his wounds he did not recognise his father who was also being held in the hall. The other young prisoner who had been carried into the hall later died from his injuries. That was in early September 1992.

The witness states that he was only beaten after his arrival at the camp. From 15 July to 1 October 1992 he himself saw 15 dead bodies which were taken away from the camp.

To the question whether enough food was available there, he replied that he had lost 25 kg in weight during his imprisonment. The witness gave the names of two soldiers who ill-treated the prisoners.

Code No. BB2

This witness lived in the town of BREZOVO POLJE, which was attacked by Serb forces on 17 June 1992. After the occupation of the town, the men were taken first to a gymnasium and later to the port of BRCKO, and the women with their children were taken to ORASJE LONCARI (12 km from BRCKO). The witness reports that shortly after their arrival three chetniks came to the gymnasium (where about 1,000 peopole were being held) and asked for prisoners of Albanian descent. 10 - 15 persons answered. Some did not answer for fear. Some were taken out of the mass of prisoners by soldiers. Shortly thereafter the soldiers began to beat the Albanians. The right ear of one young Albanian whom the witness knew, was cut off with a knife. The young man collapsed and was in a coma for ten days. During the witness's 23-day imprisonment, chetniks came into the hall again and again and ill-treated the prisoners.

On 9 July 1992, the prisoners were transferred from that gymnasium to the camp of BATKOVICI. The witness says that three chetniks entered the bus before the prisoners got off, and

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saying that "he had no chance and the camp was the last stop for him" hit the witness, who was sitting in the first row, with a truncheon on the head because he had dared to look one of the soldiers in the eye. After they got off the bus, the men had to stand with raised hands facing the wall. Their personal effects were taken from the prisoners. On their march to the storehouse, the prisoners were beaten by soldiers and the witness was repeatedly kicked. In the hall, the prisoners were again ordered to stand with raised hands facing the wall. The prisoners were then beaten by the soldiers for an hour. The witness was detained in this camp until 23 October 1992.

During his imprisonment, the prisoners were ill-treated again and again. During that time, the witness saw about 20 prisoners die from their injuries after beatings. Among them were a prisoner named Ferid ZECEVIC, a café owner, and his friend APAKA (first name unknown), who died from their injuries in early September 1992. Many prisoners also died in the camp because of lack of medical care.

The witness gives the names of several Serb soldiers responsible for ill-treating prisoners.

Code No. BB3

The witness was detained in the above-mentioned camp from 2 July to 5 December 1992 (see the ICRC certificate of 15 December 1992). The witness confirmed the above witness's testimony that there was repeated ill-treatment of prisoners by Serb soldiers. In addition, the witness reports that before his arrest on 22 June 1992, two old women standing at the doors of their houses were shot dead by Serbian irregulars with machine-guns on 16 June 1992 in a forest near KORAJ (25 km from BRCKO). The witness, who was hiding behind some bushes, was able to see this incident from a distance of about 50 metres.

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3.2.2.2. BRCKO

Code No. BBR4

On 30 April, the Serbs attacked the town of BRCKO. Two bridges across the river SAVA (the boundary between Bosnia and Croatia) were blown up. The witness was arrested by the ARKAN group on 4 May 1992 at 9.00 a.m.at his house in BRCKO because of his Moslem descent. The witness was first taken with other civilians to a barracks in BRCKO, where the men were separated from the women. The women and children (about 150 persons) were taken in buses to BREZOVO POLJE (18 km from BRCKO) and the men (about 150) were taken to the LASER camp, a garage which had formerly belonged to a travel agency named LASER. The guard consisted of soldiers from the town of BRCKO. There was little to eat and the prisoners had to sleep on the floor.

On 7 May 1992, the witness saw three Serb soldiers picking out a neighbour of his named KEMO, a member of the organisation STRANKA DEMOKRATESKE AKTIE (Party of Democratic Action), from the among the other prisoners and beating him up. He died on the same evening.

On 8 May 1992, the witness was transferred with other prisoners from the LASER camp to the camp of LUKA-BRCKO (a former warehouse) where there were already about 100 prisoners. The men over 60 were taken to the village of CELIC (20 km from BRCKO). There, first of all, the prisoners were deprived of their personal effects. The witness reports how the soldiers insulted and beat the prisoners. On that night, an officer of the Serb army, Goran JELISIC, came to the camp with two other soldiers and picked about 10 people from the crowd. Then the soldiers beat the prisoners with rubber truncheons and kicked them with their feet.

On the next day, a Serbian officer came, selected about 15 prisoners and took them to another building, where they were /...

beaten and ill-treated. After that, the prisoners returned to the hall of the warehouse. On the same day, Goran JELISIC came back to the camp with the officer just mentioned and picked specifically two prisoners from the crowd, the brothers HASANOVIC, who came from GLOD (near ZVORNIK, 80 km from BRCKO). They were beaten up brutally. Then they were shot by the two Serbs in front of the other prisoners. Their corpses were then taken away by other soldiers in a car. The witness states that the dead bodies were taken to the incineration plant for animal carcasses in BRCKO.

After this incident, about two hours later, Goran JELISIC came back to the hall with a man aged about 50 who was holding his right ear in his hand. He was a Croat. JELISIC ordered the prisoners to shoot the Croat. When none of the prisoners volunteered, a Serb soldier declared himself ready to do it. He then shot the Croat with his rifle. On that day, a young prisoner was also called out by Goran JELISIC and shot dead after being ill-treated.

During that day, the camp commanders called about 40 prisoners by name to the camp office where they were handed discharge papers of passes. Although the witness had not been called, a Serb soldier from BRCKO who knew him helped him to get a discharge paper.

While the witness was waiting for his pass, he could see a young married couple, who had been brought to the camp shortly earlier and whose hands had been tied to their backs, being beaten by Goran JELISIC and another Serb soldier. The couple were ordered to kneel down and eat grass. The witness has no information about the further fate of that couple.

After his release, the witness went to his parents' home, where he stayed until 13 July 1992. When the Serbs again started to arrest Moslem and Croat men, he decided to leave BRCKO. Another Serbian friend of his, a former fellow worker, helped him at /...

the local police station to get another discharge document or pass. In this pass, Austria was mentioned as his destination. On 14 July 1992, the witness left BRCKO and went to BJELJINA (on the border between Bosnia and Serbia) where he was, however, sent back to BJELJINA [sic] by the military police, until finally a Serbian family helped him to travel to Austria on 2 and 3 September 1992.

Code No. BBR5

This witness was detained from 17 June to 9 July 1992 in a hall at the port of BRCKO. In that hall, about 800 - 900 persons were imprisoned. The witness tells how the right ear of young Albanian accused of raping a Serbian woman was cut off. The witness also says that the Serb soldiers constantly ill-treated the prisoners.

The witness was transferred to BATKOVIC prison camp on 9 July. He was released from that camp at the end of December 1992 (ICRC identity card No. 240918). The witness reports that the prisoners at their arrival were received with blows and kicks by the soldiers present there. On that occasion the witness was hit on the head with a rifle butt so hard that he suffered a severe contusion the scars of which are still visible today.

The witness reports that prisoners were ill-treated again and again during his imprisonment. During that time, the witness saw a prisoner named Ferid ZECEVIC, a former grammar school teacher who had also organised the opening of coffee-house for young people, being beaten by masked soldiers; on the following day he died as a result of his serious injuries. A friend of the teacher, by profession a goldsmith, died of his injuries two days after Mr. ZECEVIC's death. The witness says that many prisoners died in this way.

The witness reports that in October 1992, 11 prisoners who had been ill-treated and tortured extremely severely were taken out of the hall where the witness was staying and were transported out of the camp. When they were leaving, the witness could see worms in the wounds on the feet of one prisoner who was being carried out of the hall. Very probably these prisoners were later executed because they had occupied political functions and had been told time and again that they would never be allowed to leave the camp alive.

The witness also reports that a Croat who had tried to escape was so badly ill-treated by Serb soldiers that his face was totally disfigured so that the witness did not recognise him.

3.2.2.3. BOSANSKI NOVI

Code No. BBN5

This witness was arrested by Serb soldiers at BOSANSKI NOVI in early June 1992 and was taken to a warehouse with other inhabitants of the village; from there, they were taken to DOBOY (100 km from Banjaluka) in a train comprising about 15 railway waggons. Before the prisoners entered the waggons, the witness saw about 10 - 15 persons being shot point-blank by Serb soldiers. Their dead bodies were left behind. Among the people shot were his neighbours Sulejman BURZIC (manual worker in Zagreb, aged 50), Camil ALIC (electrician, aged 35), Samid IMSIROVIC (butcher, aged 30), Ismet SELEMAGIC (clerk, aged 32) and Sifet BARJEKTAROVIC (local politician, aged 34). The prisoners were held in these waggons for three days without water and food. They had to relieve themselves in the corners of the waggon. Then the train went to DOBOY. There all had to get off. Then 800 men, among them the witness, were loaded into the waggons again and the train went back to BOSANSKI NOVI. They were all taken to the football stadium at BOSANSKI NOVI (SLOBODA STADIUM). There the prisoners were ordered to eat

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grass. The prisoners were guarded by about 20 soldiers. Then some prisoners were handed rubber truncheons to beat other prisoners. This procedure was repeated by turns. Some prisoners were ordered to haul a heavy roller used to level the ground in the stadium. When trying to do this, some prisoners fainted from exhaustion.

The witness was detained at that stadium for 45 days. During that time, prisoners would be picked from the crowd and taken away. The witness knows nothing of their fate. On 23 July 1992, the stadium was visited by a UN commission, whereupon the prisoners were transferred to KARLOVAC. The witness came to Austria on 12 October 1992.

3.2.3. Rape

3.2.3.1. The case from DRINJACA

Code No. CD1

The witness lived at DRINJACA (20 km from GREAT ZVORNIK). She was arrested by Serb soldiers on 28 May 1992 at 10.00 a.m. with her three children and other women and children. They were taken to a young people's home where there were about 35 men.

On their arrival, the witness and other women saw these men, who were standing in front of the building, being beaten by soldiers and then shot. Then the women were led into the building and were not allowed to leave it. At about 11.00 p.m., about twenty soldiers entered the building, selected some women from the crowd and led them out of the building. The witness was raped twice by two soldiers on the back seat of a car. In that night, women were raped until 7.00 in the morning. A girl from KOSTIJEROVO, for example, was raped five times. The children had no idea of these rapes. Their mothers only told them that they had been taken to interrogations. The witness /...

says that she did not become pregnant because she was using a contraceptive (an IUD).

On 29 May 1992 at 10.00 a. m., all women with their children were taken to a school at MEMIC (between TUZLA and ZVORNIK). There two young women, the witness's daughter (aged 14) and two teenage boys were taken away to interrogation. The children were not ill-treated.

On 30 May 1992 at 5.00 p.m., the women were ordered to walk or rather run on foot to KALEJSIJA (14 km). At KALEJSIJA, the Serbs let the women go. With the help of Bosnian soldiers, the women were the driven in lorries to MEDZAS (10 km from TUZLA), where the witness was able to rejoin her daughter who had been taken away for interrogation at MEMIC.

3.2.3.2. The case from FOCA

Code No. CF1

This witness was raped by two Serb soldiers.

On the Islamic holiday in early June 1992, at about 11.30 p.m., four persons, two in uniform and the other two in civilian clothes, broke down the door to the witness's flat which was on the 7th floor of a housing block. Among the men were Dragen PEJOVIC, a fellow worker of her sister's, and Islam BASIC MIRADA, who worked in public transport in the town of FOCA. They asked for the witness's sister, who was at that time in the neighbouring flat. The men threatened the witness with a knife and ordered her, a friend of hers and her sister to go to the stairwell of the house. At first the men wanted the witness's sister to go into the empty flat with them. When she began to weep, they left her alone. Then the men ordered the witness to go to the neighbouring flat, where her friend's children were sleeping. Two of these men (one in uniform and

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the other in civilian clothes) followed her. They had hardly arrived when they ordered the witness to undress. The man in civilian clothes cut her clothes off her body with a knife. They said they would show her what Moslem men had done to Serbian women. Then they raped the witness. They looted the flat. When one could hear sirens outside, the two others ran away. One of the rapists tore off her necklace with a knife and also took her ring.

A neighbour living on the first floor had informed the police after the four men had asked for the witness's sister. Since KARADZIC's brother, who is a deputy, also lived on the first floor, a police car drove by, but the policemen did not enter the house. The siren of that car prompted the men to leave the witness's flat.

The witness says that on 29 April 1992 her house was set on fire by Serbs and her husband was kidnapped and killed. She says that a former neighbour, a policeman whose name she knows, was responsible for that.

3.2.3.2. The case from Sarajevo

Code No. CS1

This witness is by profession a nurse from Sarajevo and she saw Serb soldiers raping a 12-year-old girl.

In mid-May 1992, at about 4.00 in the morning, Serbian units attacked the residential area of NASELJE near SARAJEVO airport. Civilians were taken out of the cellars and forced to stand in the streets as human shields. This was in order to force the Moslem units not to shoot at the Serbs. The civilians were divided up into two groups, a Moslem group and a Serb group. The witness states that an elderly man of Serbian descent refused to join the Serb group, whereupon he was beaten by /...

about 5 - 6 Serb soldiers with rifle butts until he collapsed dead. Reportedly they were both Federal Army soldiers and chetniks. The civilians were ordered to walk along the street with raised arms. Then they were taken to a camp in lorries and buses (a drive of about 3 km). After their arrival, the civilians had to stand in a row. Immediately afterwards, 5 soldiers took a 12-year-old girl who was standing among the others with her father and led her behind the building in front of which the group was standing. There the soldiers raped the girl. As a result of the girl's weeping and cries, her father collapsed. Shortly afterwards, one of the soldiers came back and fetched the father to make him watch his daughter's rape from close up. People heard the girl's cries for an hour. This was about 1.00 p.m.

The witness says that if there were an identification parade, she would recognise at least one of these soldiers. She thinks that the soldiers were followers of KARADZIC.

Then the men were separated from the women. At about 3.00 p.m. the men were driven away from the camp in lorries. The women were released from the camp on the same afternoon at about 4.00 p.m. The witness believes that the women's release was due to the fact that shortly before their release a UN convoy drove by the camp. This was also why a soldier who had been molesting her sexually stopped and left her alone. The witness returned to her work at the clinic on the same evening. She entered Austria on 14 September 1992. She returned to Sarajevo, however, in order to take her children from Belgrade to Austria. Her second entry into Austria was on 22 September 1992.

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3.2.4. Arbitrary shootings and massacres

3.2.4.1. VISEGRAD

Code No. DV1

This witness served in the Bosnian Army from 6 April to late August 1992 and has several incidents to report.

1st incident

Together with 11 other soldiers stationed on the VISEGRAD "CRNI VRH" defence line, the witness on a day in early June 1992 at about 4.00 p.m. saw through binoculars at a distance of about 1 km two chetniks shooting two girls aged between 8 and 10 with their automatic rifles (M 70). The corpses were left lying there. The soldiers wanted to go to the place but were prevented by their commander, whose name the witness does not want to say.

2nd incident

On a day in mid-June 1992 at about 6.00 p.m., at the KRIZEVAC cemetery in JELIKA GOSTILJA (6 km from VISEGRAD) the witness buried four dead bodies of people three of whom he knew by name (Ramo POLJO, Rifet POLJO and Nermin SABANOVIC). They had been shot by chetniks with M 53 machine-guns. In one of the bodies the genitals had been cut off before the shooting. He saw clear traces of torture in these bodies. These corpses had been thrown on to a heap of hay by the chetniks in order to burn them. But reportedly there was not enough time, so they left the corpses where they were.

3rd incident

On 26 June 1992 at about 11.00 a.m., about 113 civilians from the town of VELIKA POLJE GOSTILJA were arrested and taken to /...

the HASSAN VELETOVAC school, where there were already 400 persons. Of these 113 civilians, 72 (among them 10 children under 2 years of age) were transferred to BIKAVAC (6 km from VELIKA POLJE GOSTILJA) to the ALIC house. Among these 72 persons were his mother, his sister with her 18-month daughter and other relatives of the witness; at the time of these events he had no idea of what was happening, as he was on duty at LASCI (3 km from VELIKA POLJE GOSTILJA). The house was surrounded with barricades by the soldiers so that no one could leave it. Then they threw smoke bombs at the house, which began to burn. The witness heard later that his relatives were among the dead. Only one woman was able to save her life by escaping through a cellar window. That woman is said to be in a hospital at ZENICE (about 120 km from Sarajevo). She is the only witness able to describe what happened.

4th incident

On 29 June 1992 at about 12.00 noon, the witness saw Serb soldiers shooting at houses of civilians from their tanks. A house where a family of six, named FEJZIC, lived was destroyed by the tank fire. The witness with other soldiers buried the dead bodies found in that house in a meadow.

5th incident

Again in late June 1992, in a forest near the village of ZEPA the witness discovered about 97 dead bodies with their throats cut or their heads severed or fractured. The witness buried these corpses with other villagers and soldiers, which took them ten days. A list of these corpses was drawn up.

The witness says that of the inhabitants of his home town, VISEGRAD, about 5,000 - 6,000 were killed.

The witness gives the names of Serbs who are responsible for the war crimes.

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3.2.4.2. LJUBIJA

Code No. EL1

On 7 July 1992, at the mine of Ljubija (11 km from PRIJEDOR) this witness discovered a mass grave in which mainly children were buried. The corpses were from the village of HAMBARINE (located 4 km from the mine) which had been attacked by the Serbs in May 1992. The corpses, which had been covered with earth by excavators, were washed free by the rain so that parts of bodies could be seen from afar sticking out of the ground. The witness stated that in the lake near the mine (at a distance of about 100 m) corpses had also been dumped, from the village of BISCANI (3 km to the west of PRIJEDOR), but the witness had not seen them.

3.2.5. Ethnic cleansing

3.2.5.1. The case from KOZARAC

Code No. EK1

The witness is of Ukraininan descent and had to leave his home town of KOZARAC (PRIJEDOR) as a result of the Serbian policy of ethnic cleansing.

On 24 May, the Serbs attacked his home town. The town was under Serb artillery bombardment for 24 hours. After the occupation of the town, the soldiers ordered the inhabitants to go to a school at TRNOPOLJE (6 km from KOZARAC) within half an hour. Ethnic cleansing in this region went on for about 1 month. The Serbs burned down the Moslems' houses located off the main street and established a military camp there. The men from that region were taken to camps at KERATERM, OMARSKA and TRNOPOLJE. After the occupation, the Serbs conscripted the Serbian men

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living in the region for military service. If they resisted, they were taken to the above-mentioned camps. The witness obeyed the orders of the Serbs and put on his uniform which he still had from the time of his military service. As he was a small farmer by trade, he served as a reservist and was given a threshing machine with which he worked the fields. During his work, the witness discovered several dead bodies in the fields, which had been left lying there as a result of the war.

On a day towards the end of July 1992, at about 4.00 p.m., the witness saw a group of soldiers entering the house of the woman who was his neighbour. Shortly thereafter he heard shots. On the following day, the witness discovered the dead body of Fikret HODZIJE, a body builder known throughout the world.

The reason for his flight was the fact that at a meeting of about 80 men organised by the local commander on a Sunday in July near the school, a friend of his had been threatened by a Serb soldier who remarked that his "rifle had killed Moslems and would also kill Ukrainians." A similar remark to the effect that "today Moslems, tomorrow it's the Ukrainians' turn" and the fact that the main church of the Ukrainians at BANJALUKA had been destroyed compelled the witness to leave his home town, where there were about 80 Ukrainian houses. On 18 August 1992, he fled through Serbian territory by bus. He got his exit permit from a friend of his, a Serb policeman, against payment. He also had to give the local authorities a written waiver.

The witness says that mass murders had taken place at the village of BISCANI (4 km from PRIJEDOR). He had heard this from Serbs.

3.2.5.2. The case from BOSANSKI NOVI

Code No. EBN1

This witness is by profession a judge. On 15 June 1992, he saw from his room at the court building Serb soldiers destroying the mosque across the street from the court with anti-tank rockets (bazookas). The judge was advised to leave the town. Before he did, he saw the Moslems being driven out of the town by the Serbs.